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X-Factor

MUTANT POLICE

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AO
AUTHORITY



YOU MUST REMEMBER
THIS... A KISS IS JUST
A KISS...

SILLY SONG...
FOR ORDINARY
PEOPLE. FOR ME...
A KISS IS SO
MUCH MORE....!

KISS OF DEATH!

C'MERE,
ICEMAN!

OH, MOST
BEAUTIFUL
INFECTION...
BE MINE!

SMOOCH!

AND NOW
THAT I'M
YOURS--
BODY AND
SOUL--I HAVE
A PRESENT FOR YOU.

FOR
ME?

HERE IT IS...
X-FACTOR'S
SENTIENT
SHIP...

I WOULD'VE
GIFT WRAPPED
IT, LOVELY ONE,
BUT I COULDN'T
FIND ANY PAPER
BIG ENOUGH!



LOUISE SIMONSON WALTER SIMONSON BOB WIACEK JOE ROSEN PETRA SCOTESE BOB HARRAS TOM DEFALCO
WRITER PENCILER INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF

X-FACTOR Vol. 1, No. 30, July, 1988. Published by MARVEL COMICS, A NEW WORLD COMPANY. James E. Galton, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President; Milton Schiffman, Vice-President Production; OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at New York, N.Y. and at additional mailing offices. Published monthly. Copyright © 1988 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.00 per copy in the U.S. and \$1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate \$12.00 for 12 issues. Canada and Foreign, \$14.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. X-FACTOR (including all prominent characters featured in this issue) and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP INC. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016.

"QUIT DAYDREAMING, GIRL! THAT SHIP'S NOT IN YOUR POCKET YET."

"IT'S STILL OUT THERE...
FLOATING ON THE ATLANTIC
LIKE A SILVER CLOUD."

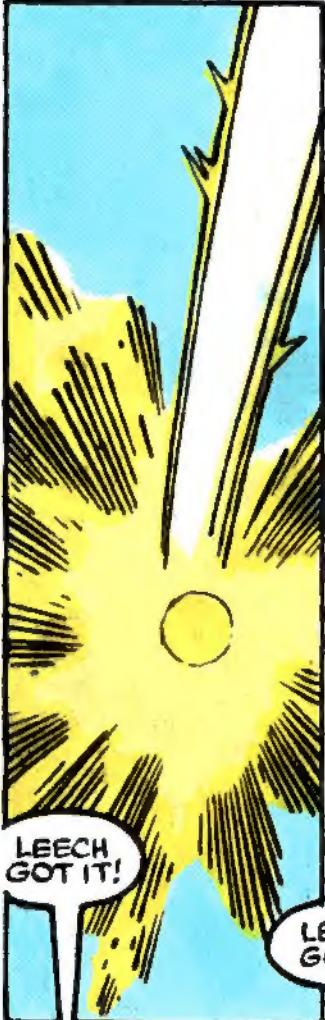
"THAT FLASH OF LIGHT!
WHAT CAN THEY BE DOING
NOW...?"

...8...

...7...

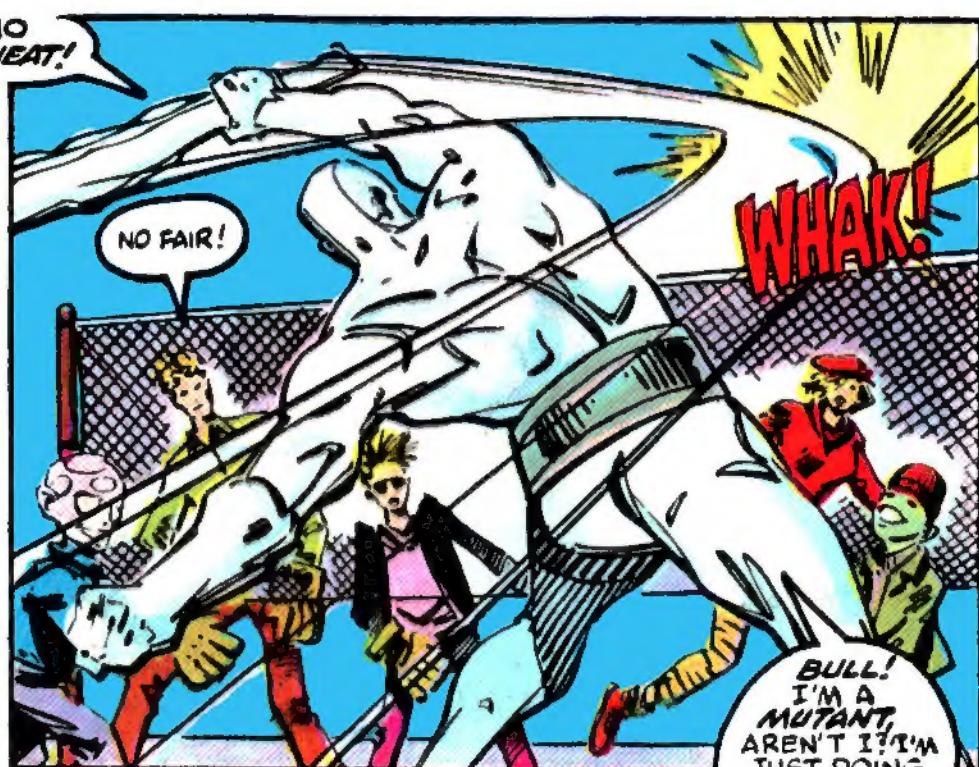
SPIKE!

...6...

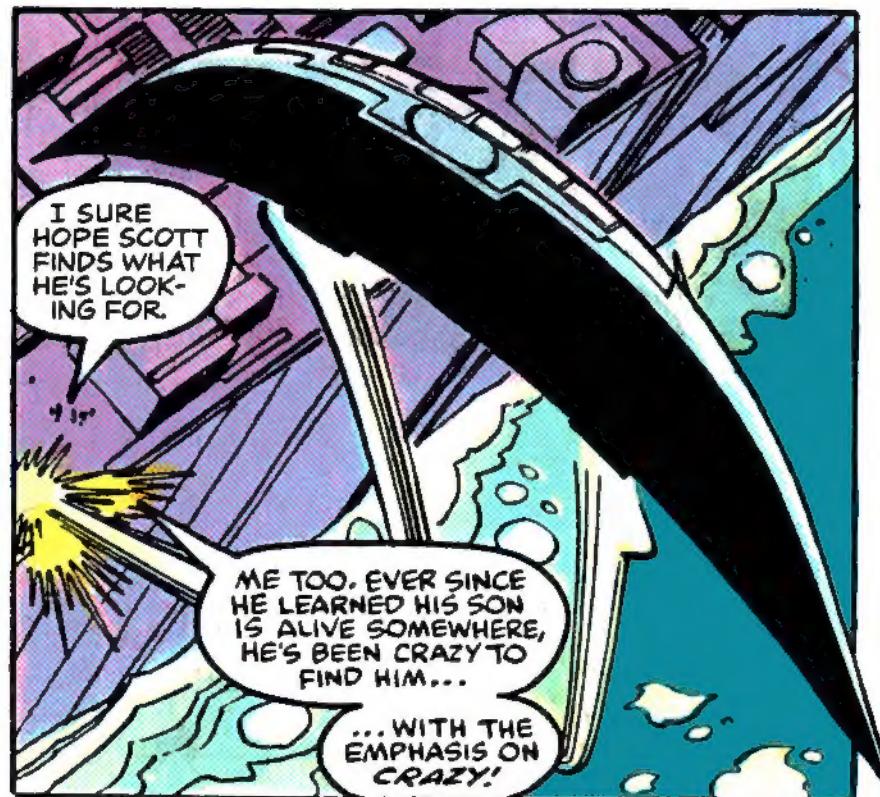
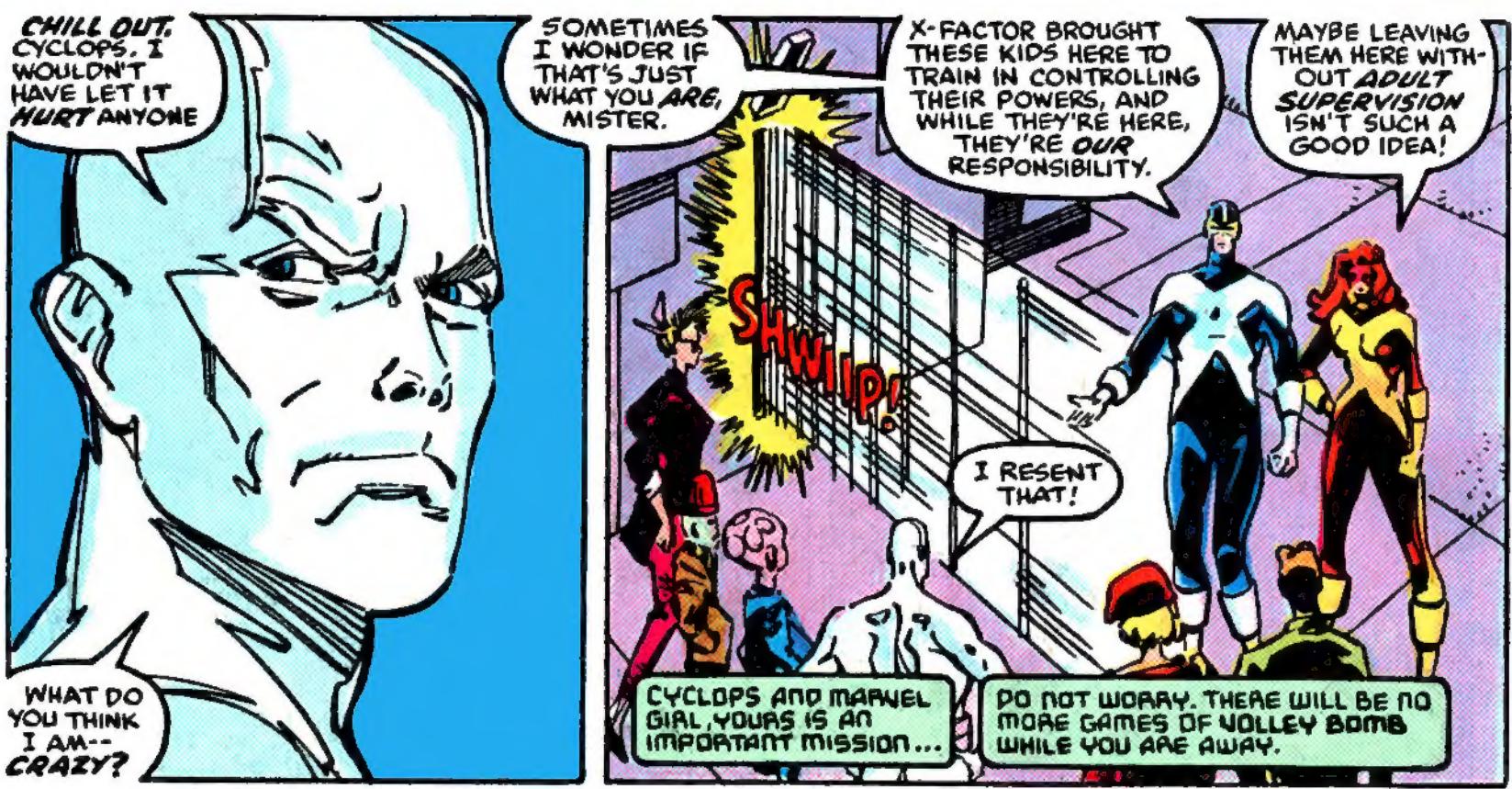
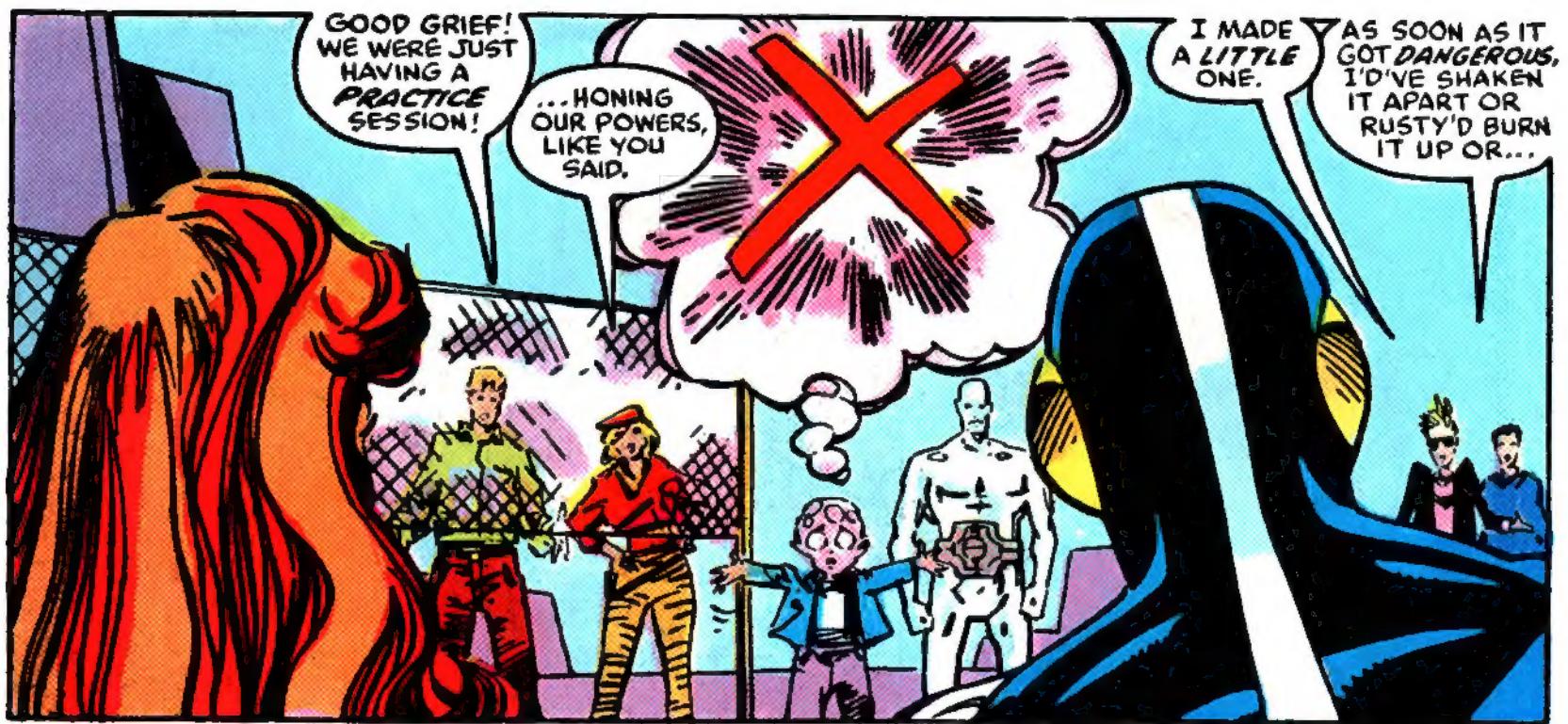


HEY...

NO SWEAT!







SEVERAL
HOURS
LATER...

C'MON, HANK,
LET'S PARTY!

UH... YOU
THINK WE OUGHTA
LEAVE THE KIDS
HERE LIKE THIS...
ALL ALONE AN'
STUFF?

YOUR CHARGES WILL BE
QUITE SAFE, BEAST.

I WILL PREPARE THEM A
NUTRITIOUS DINNER AND
THEN WE SHALL VIEW A
FILM EXPLICATING THE
POLITICAL SITUATION IN
CENTRAL AMERICA...

SOUNDS... GREAT,
SORRY WE HAVE TO MISS
IT. PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT...!
HANK... COME ON!

I
THOUGHT
THEY'D
NEVER
LEAVE.

NOW, MAY I SUGGEST
CHILIBURGERS WITH
FRENCH FRIES, AND
APPLE PIE FOR DESSERT?

SHORTLY...

SOUNDS
GREAT! MAN--
I CAN'T WAIT
TO SEE RAMBO
NUKES COMMANDO
IN NICARAGUA
ON A TWENTY-
FOOT SCREEN!

HERE
THEY
COME

HAVE YOU LEARNED ANY
MORE ABOUT THOSE
ANTI-BODIES WHO
ATTACKED YOUR
SHIP? *

NO... WE DIDN'T.
WE... UH... DON'T...

NOT TO WORRY,
M'MAN. I'LL
FIELD THE
QUESTIONS.

OUR SHIP MADE
IT FOR US... BE-
CAUSE IT'S MORE
FUN TO FLY.



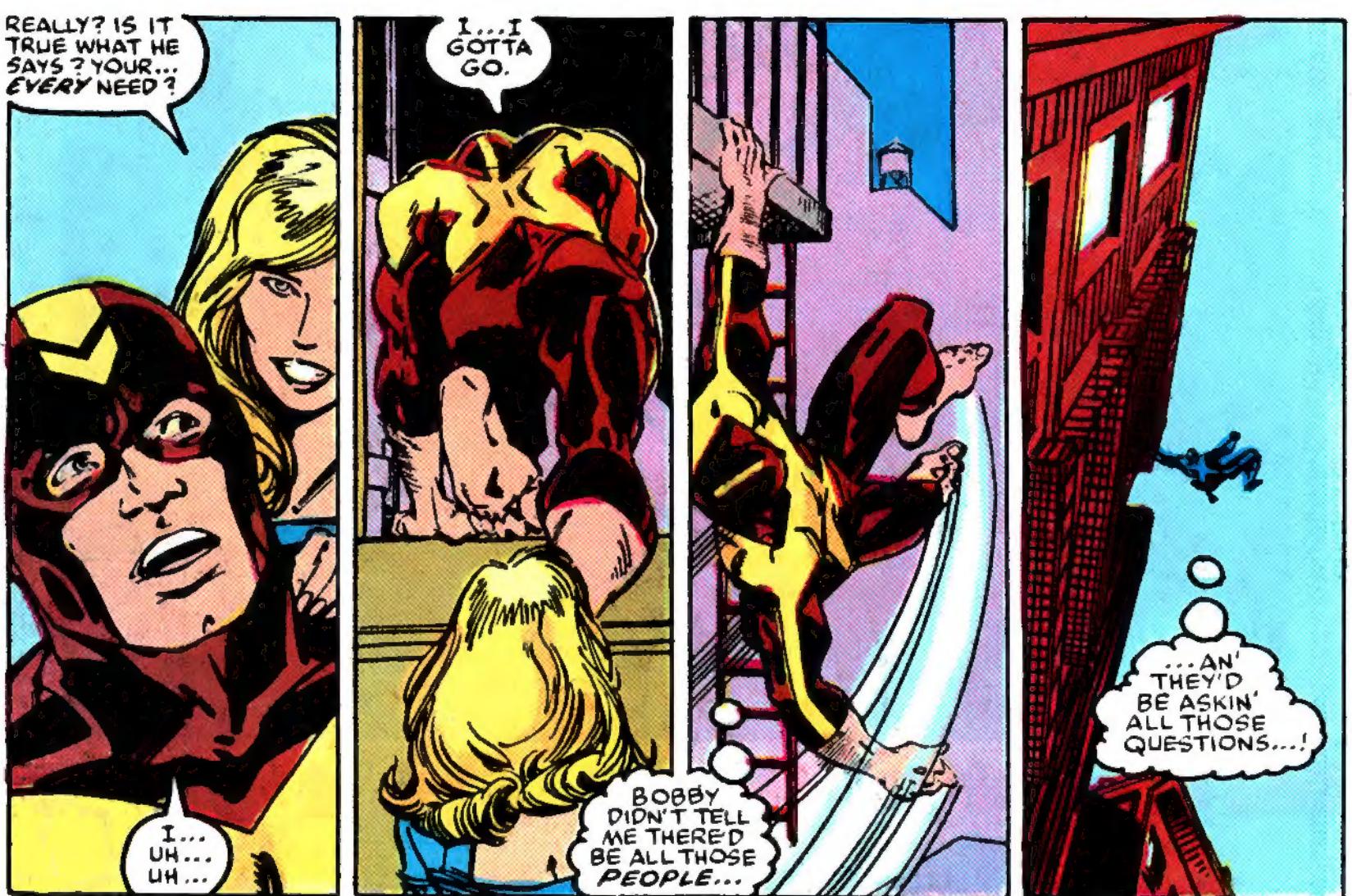
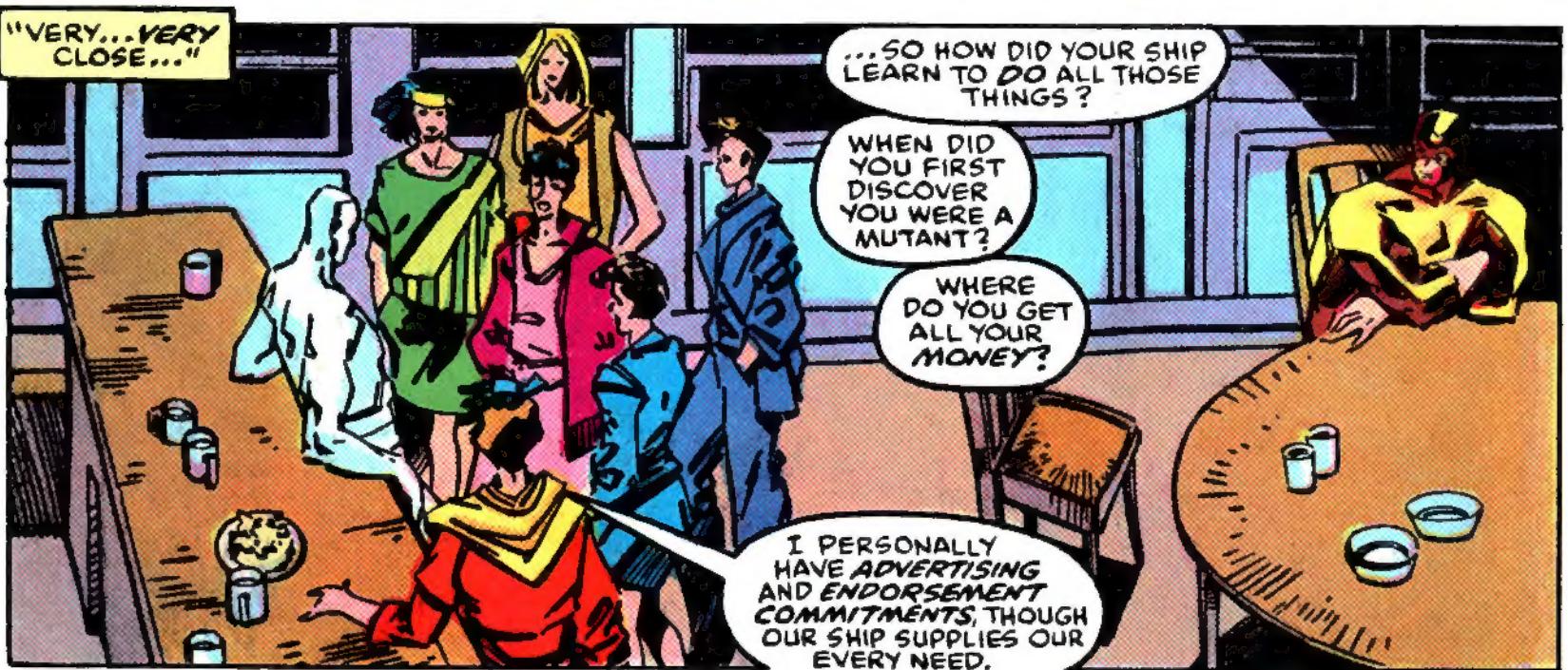
UH... BOBBY...?
YOU DIDN'T TELL
ME THERE'D BE
REPORTERS AN'
TRISH IS OUTTA
TOWN AN'...

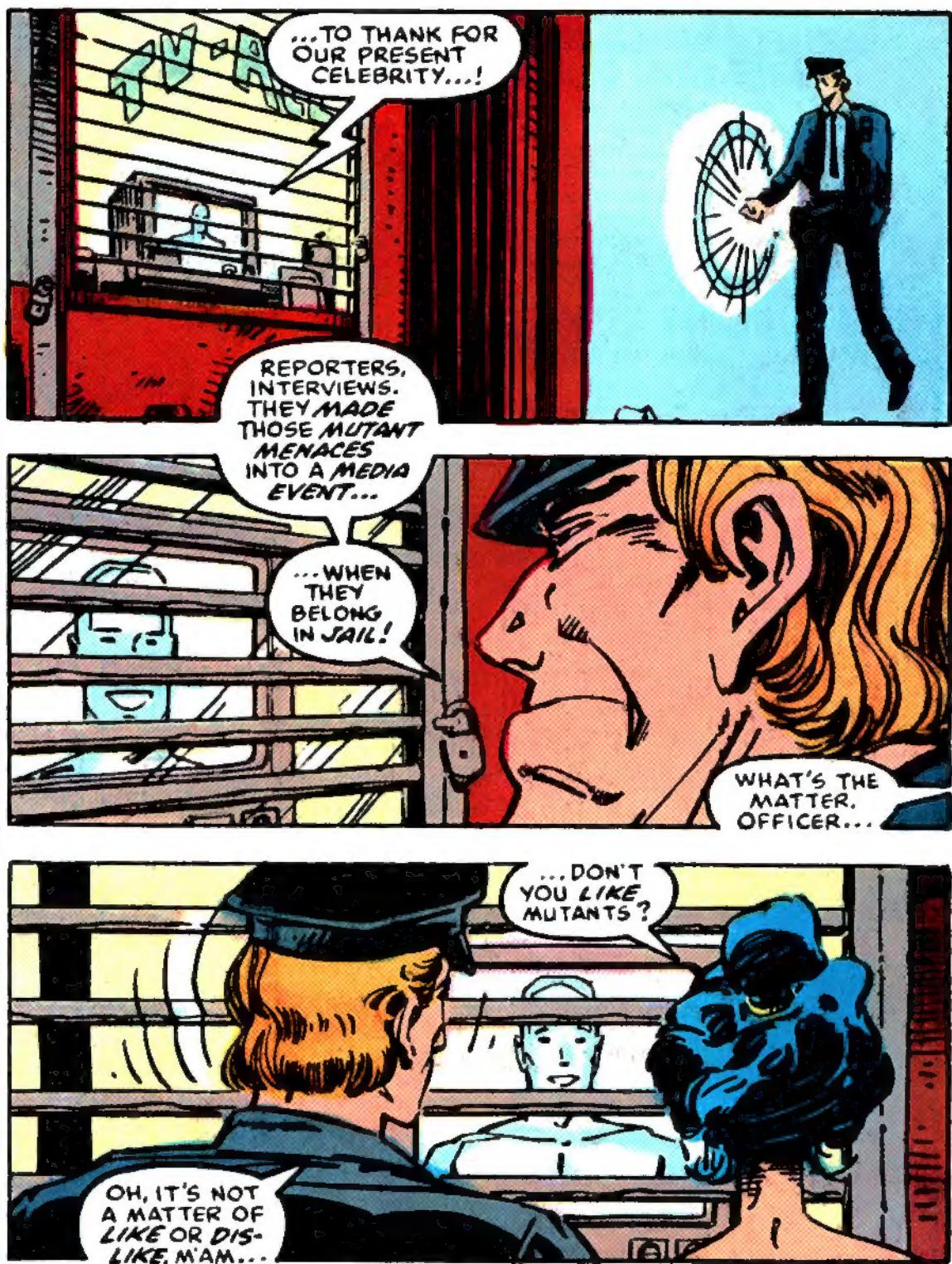


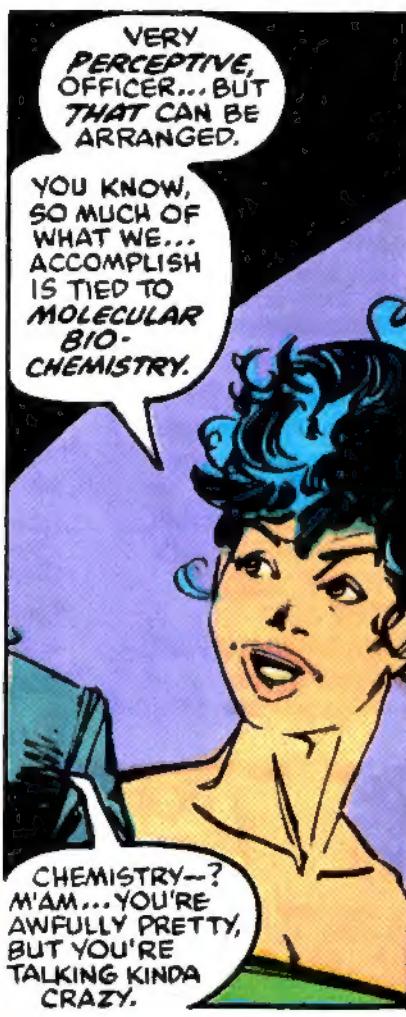
WE OF
X-FACTOR
WERE BORN
WITH MUTANT
GENETIC
STRUCTURES...

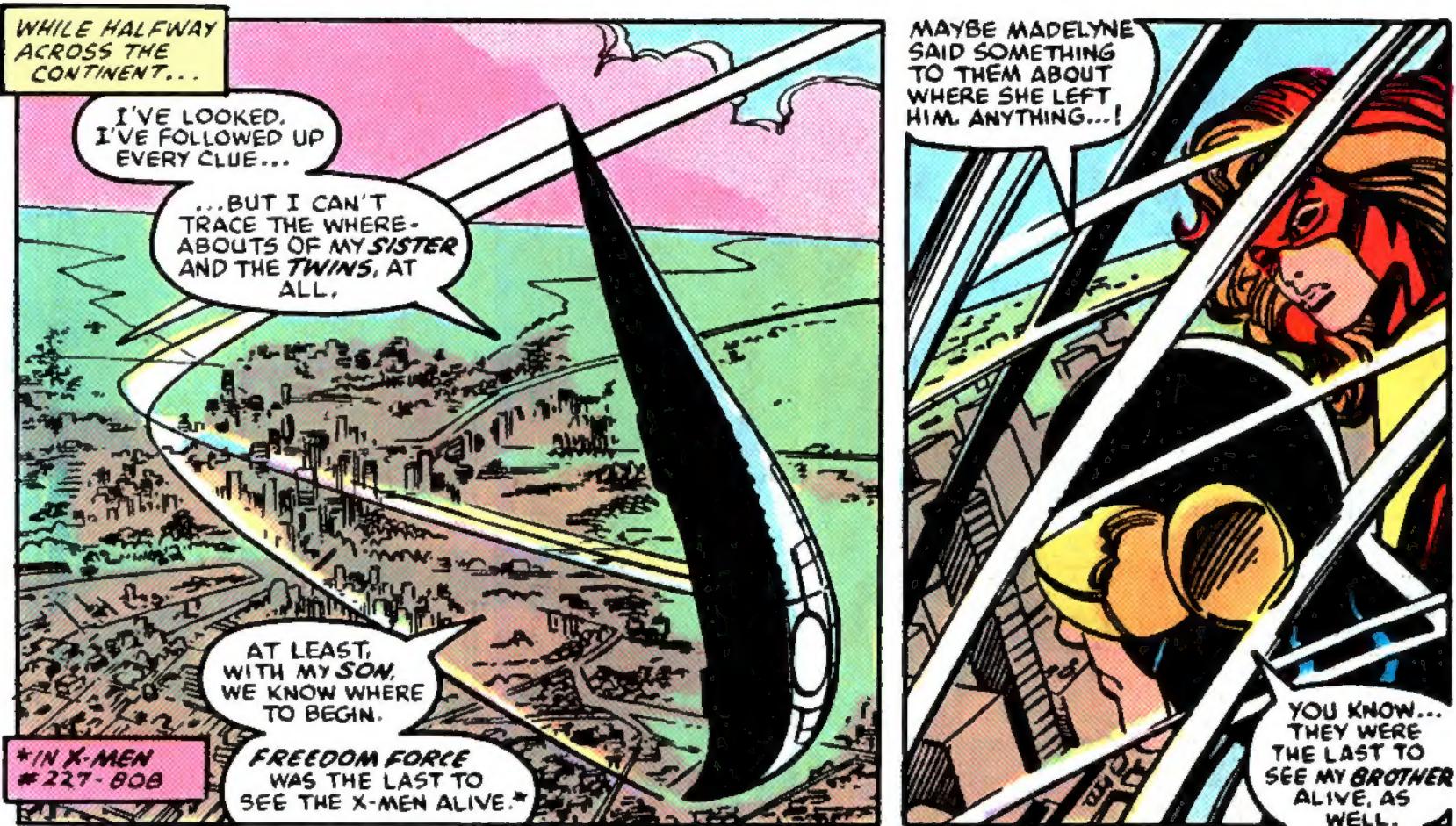
TO WHAT DO
YOU ATTRIBUTE
YOUR SUDDEN,
ENORMOUS
POPULARITY?

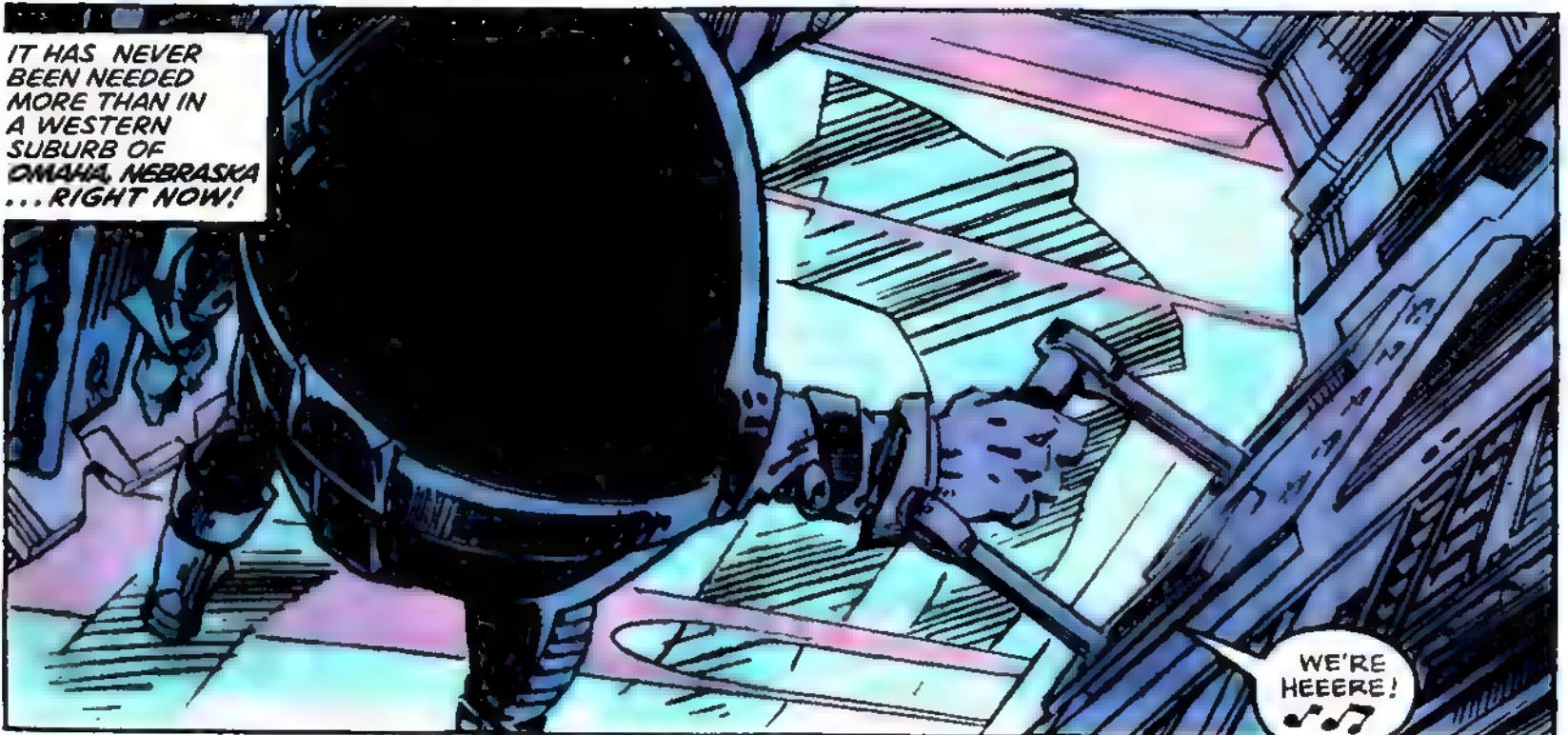
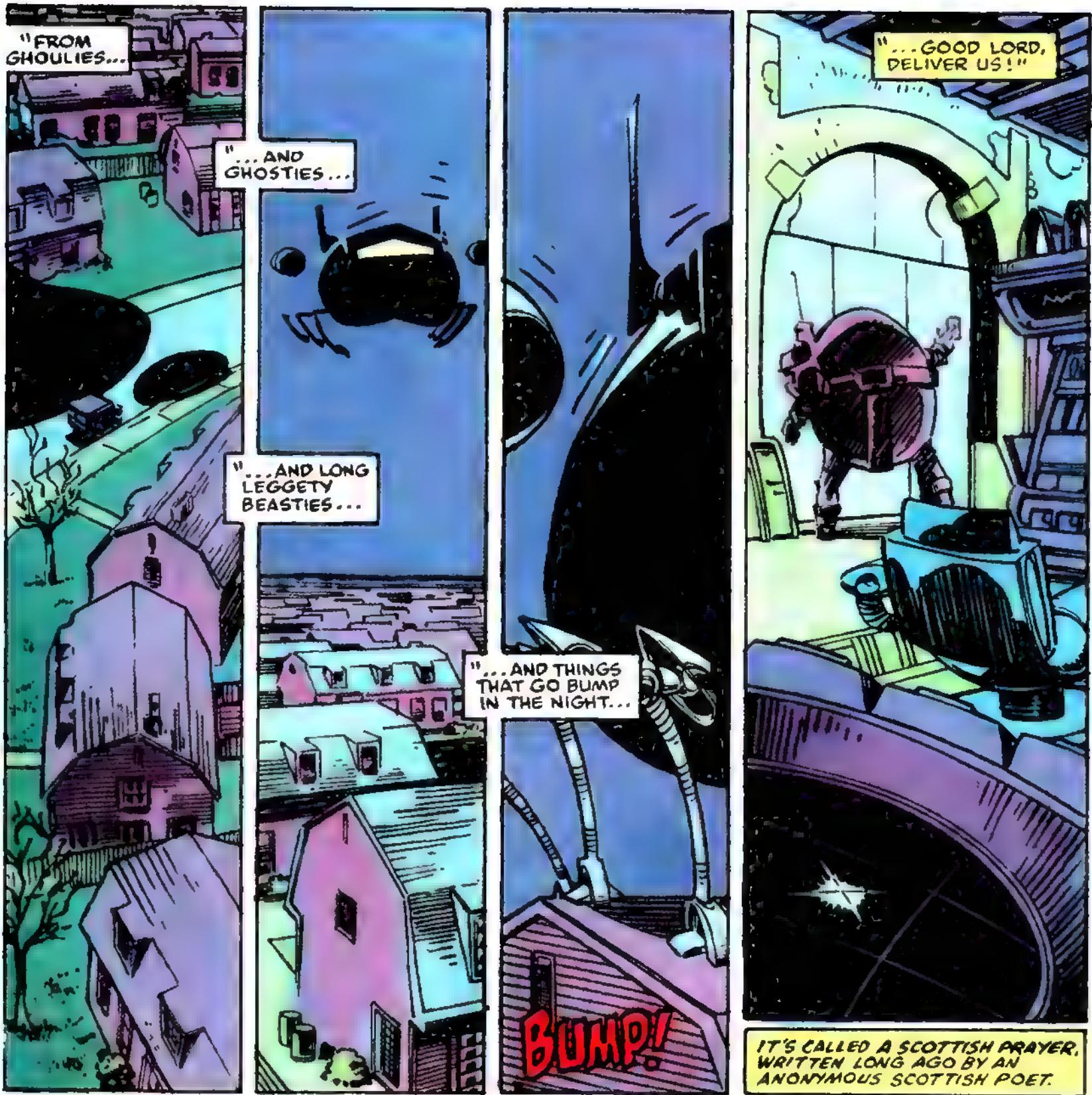
*LAST ISSUE - BOB.



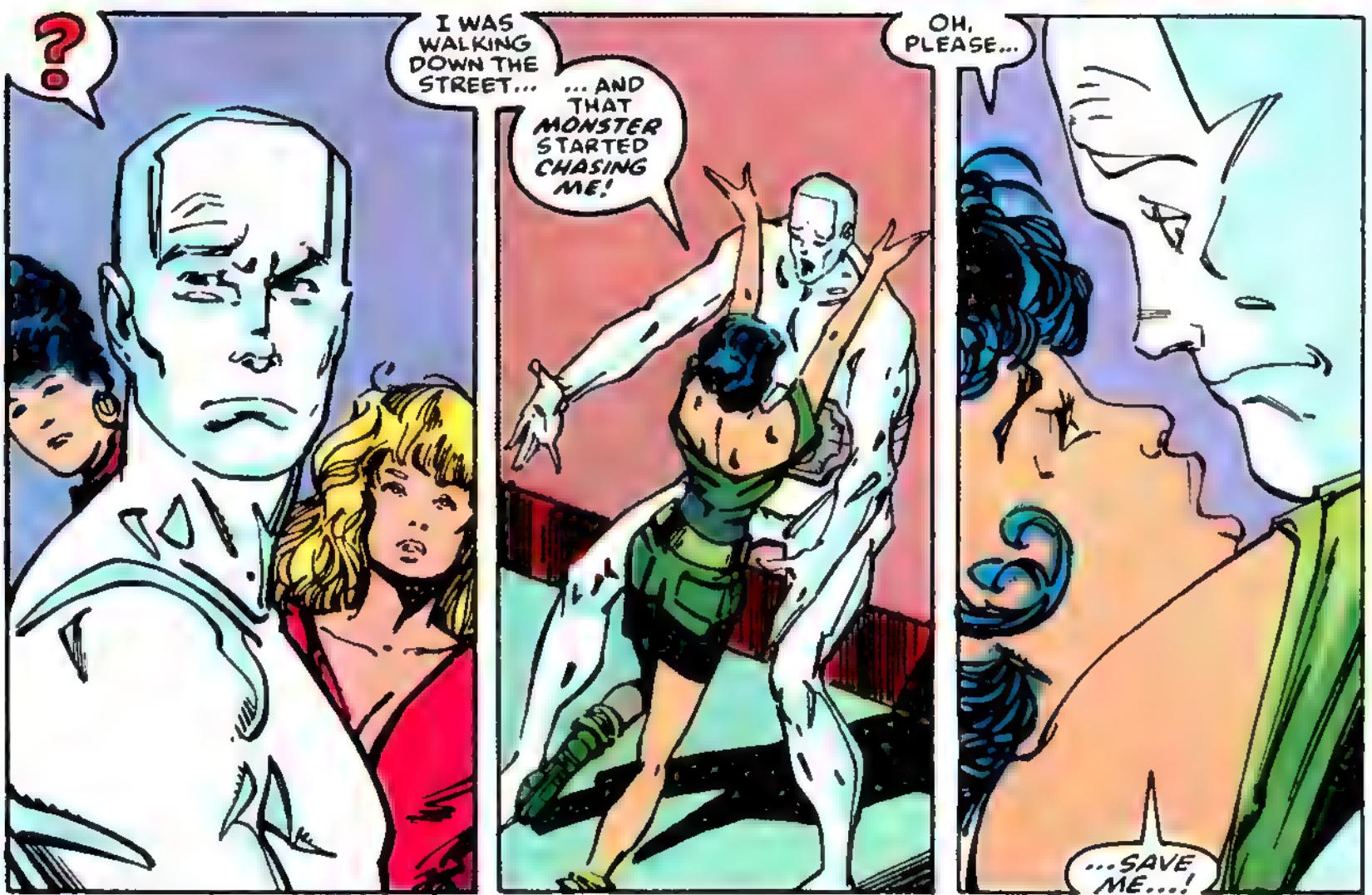
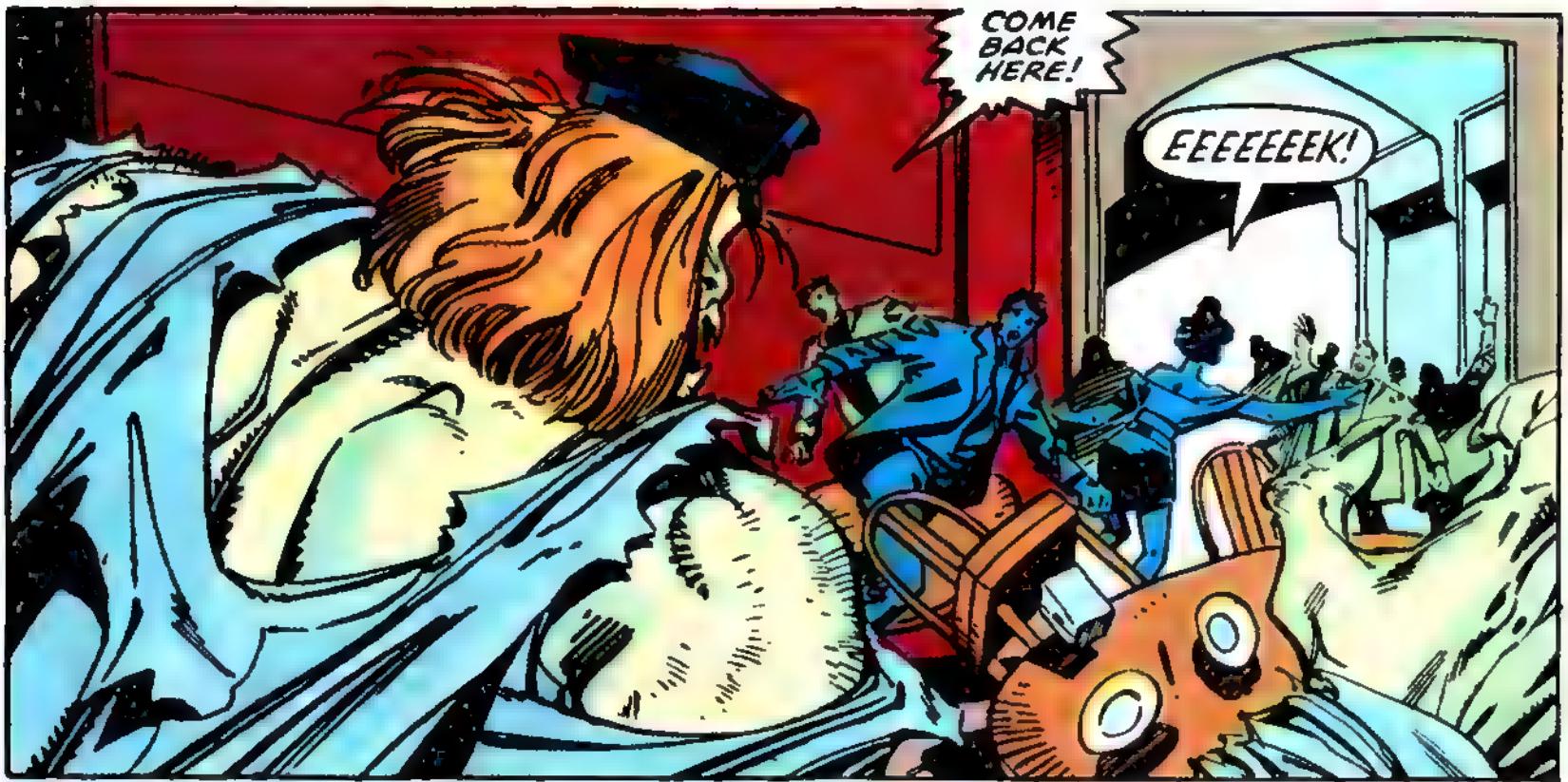


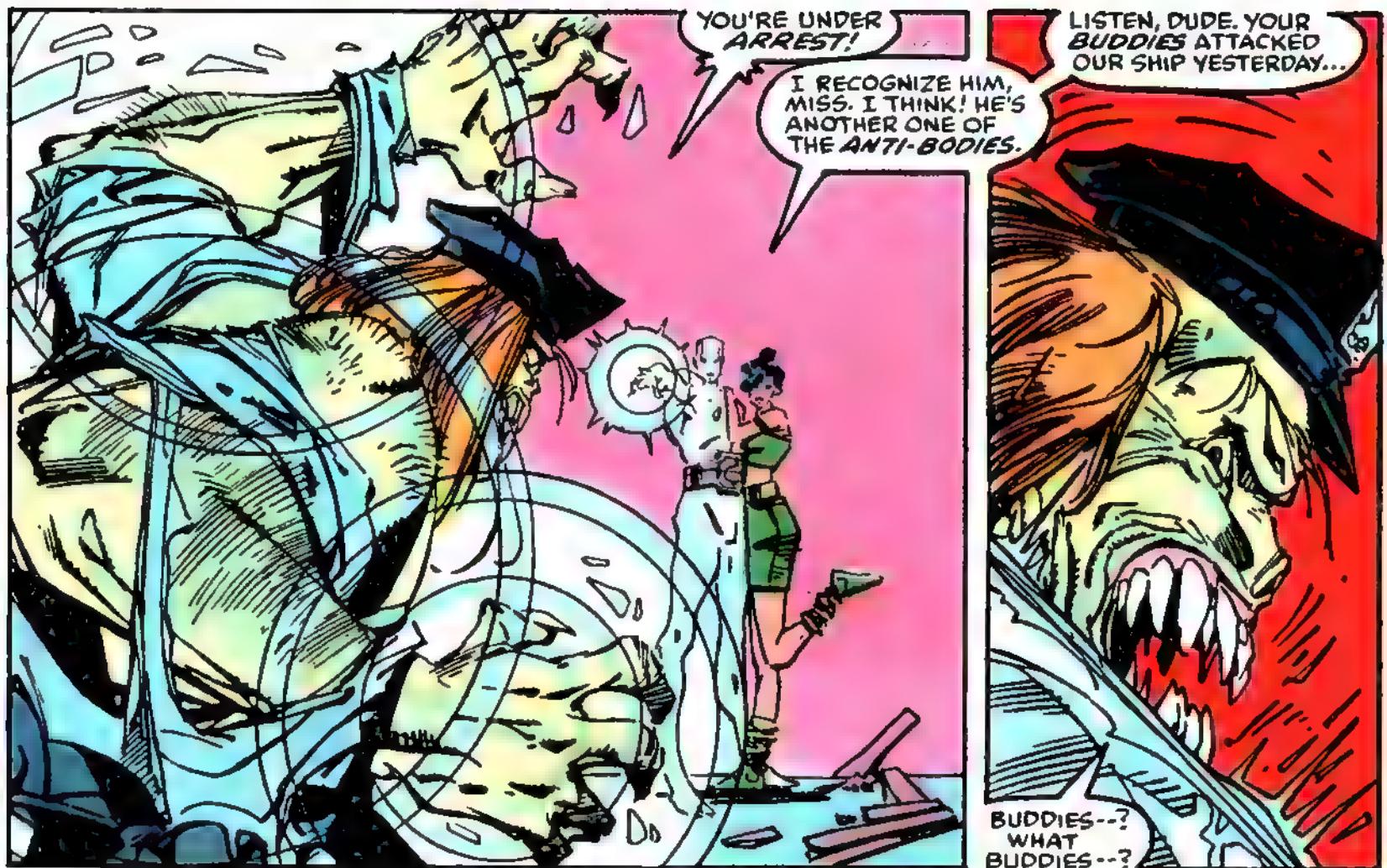


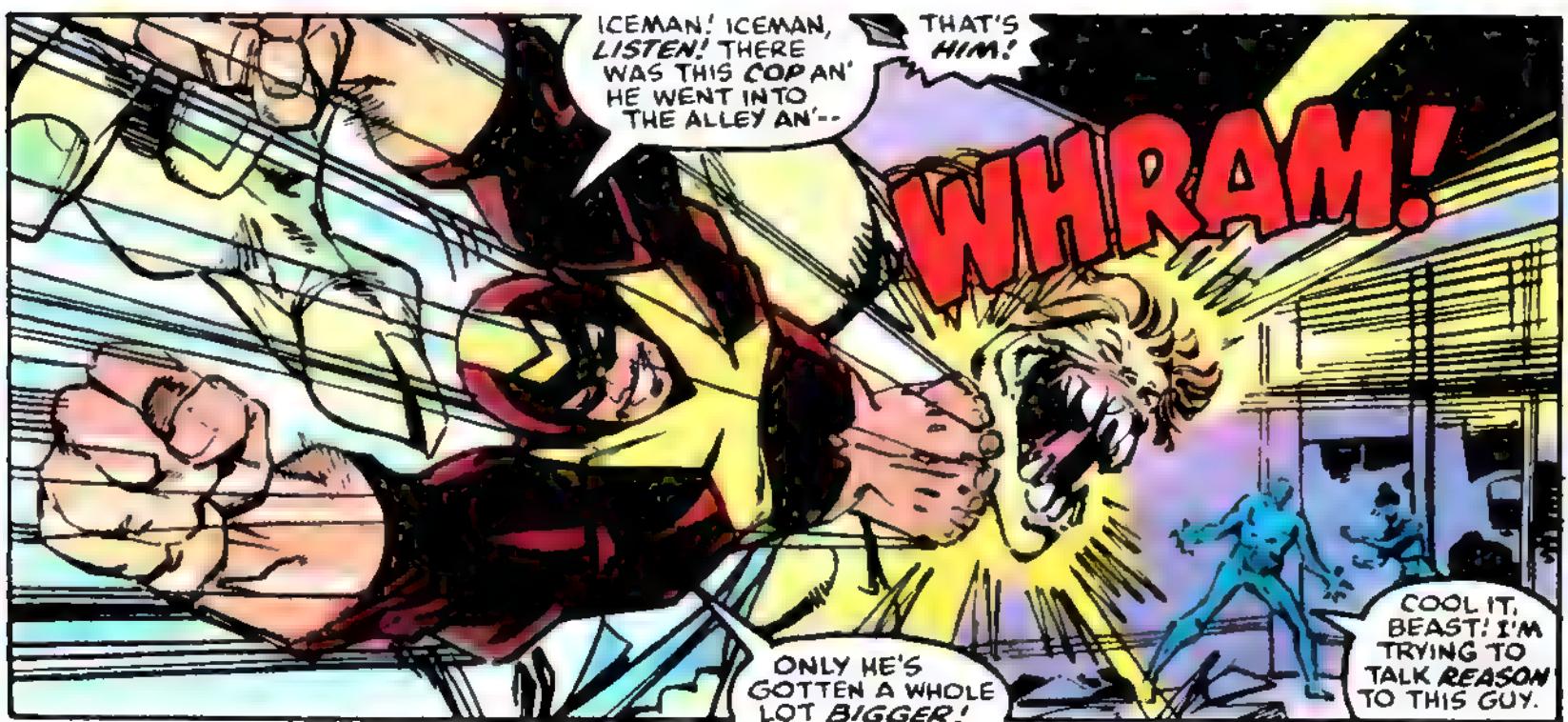
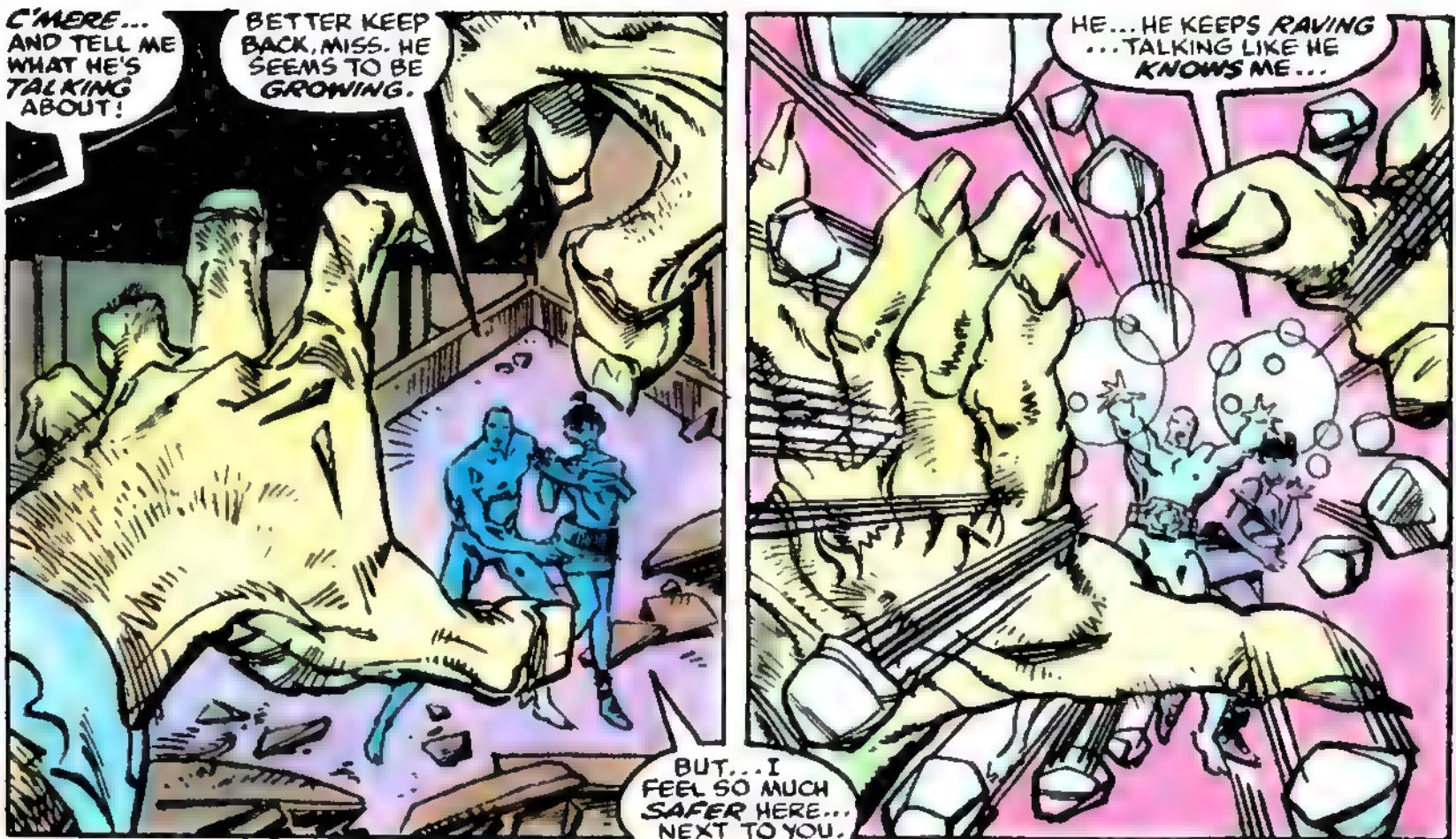


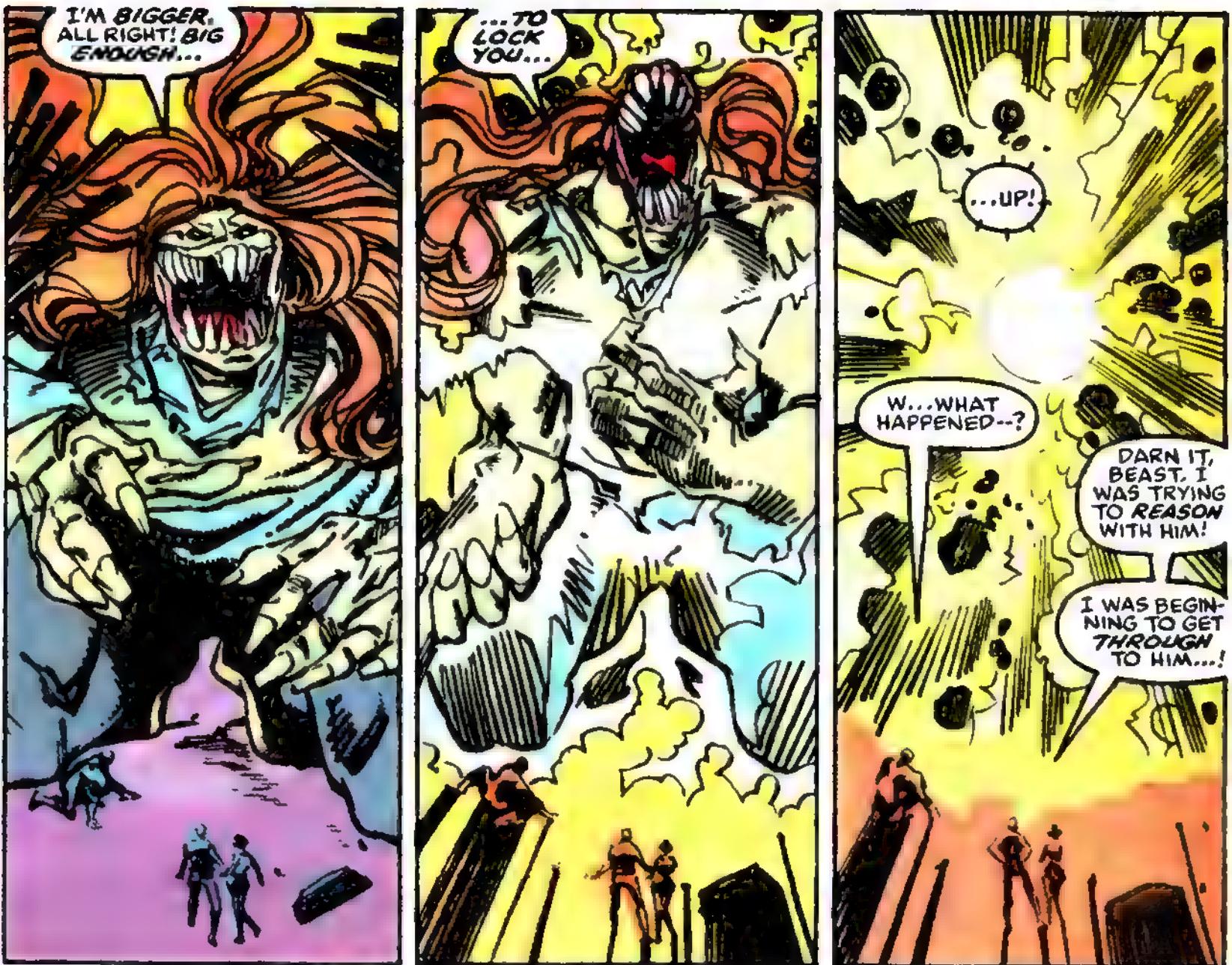




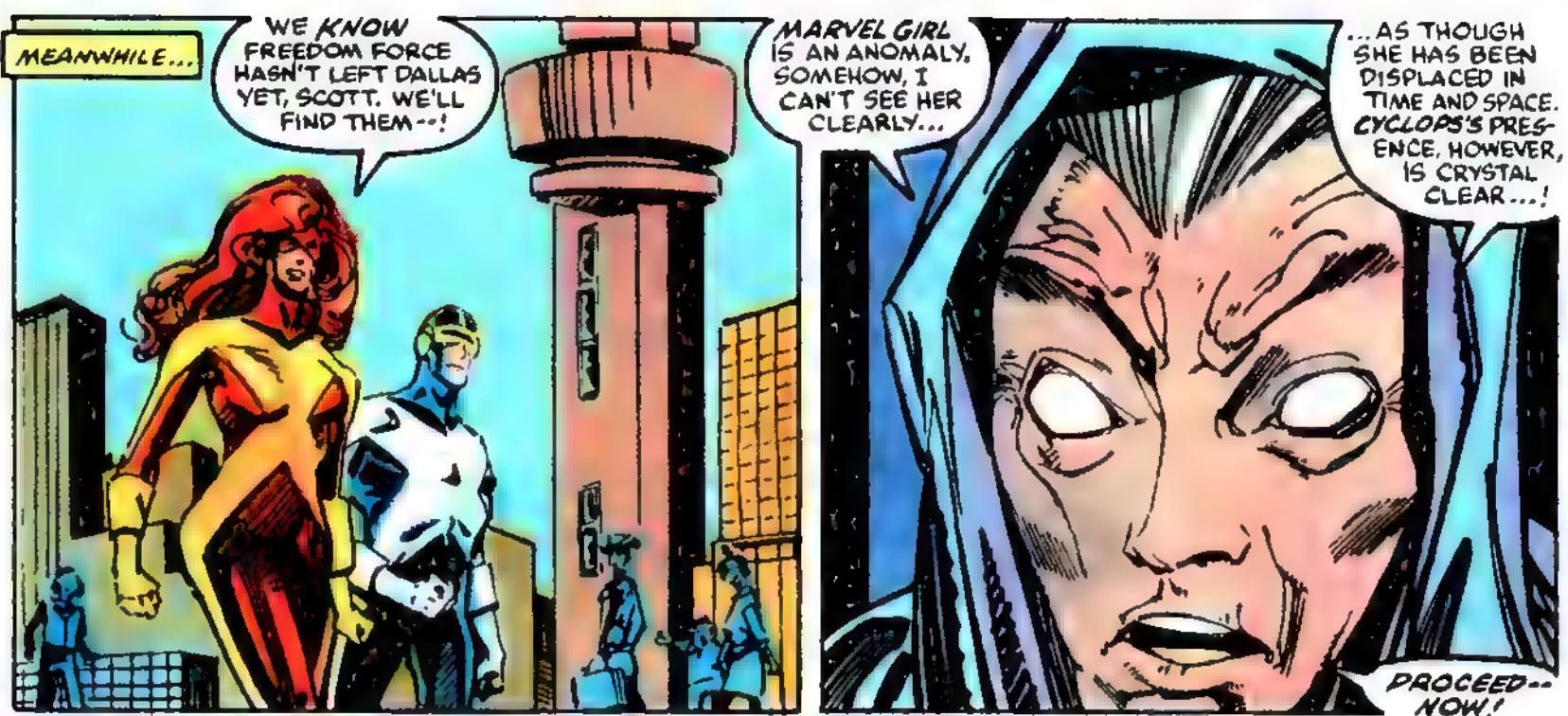


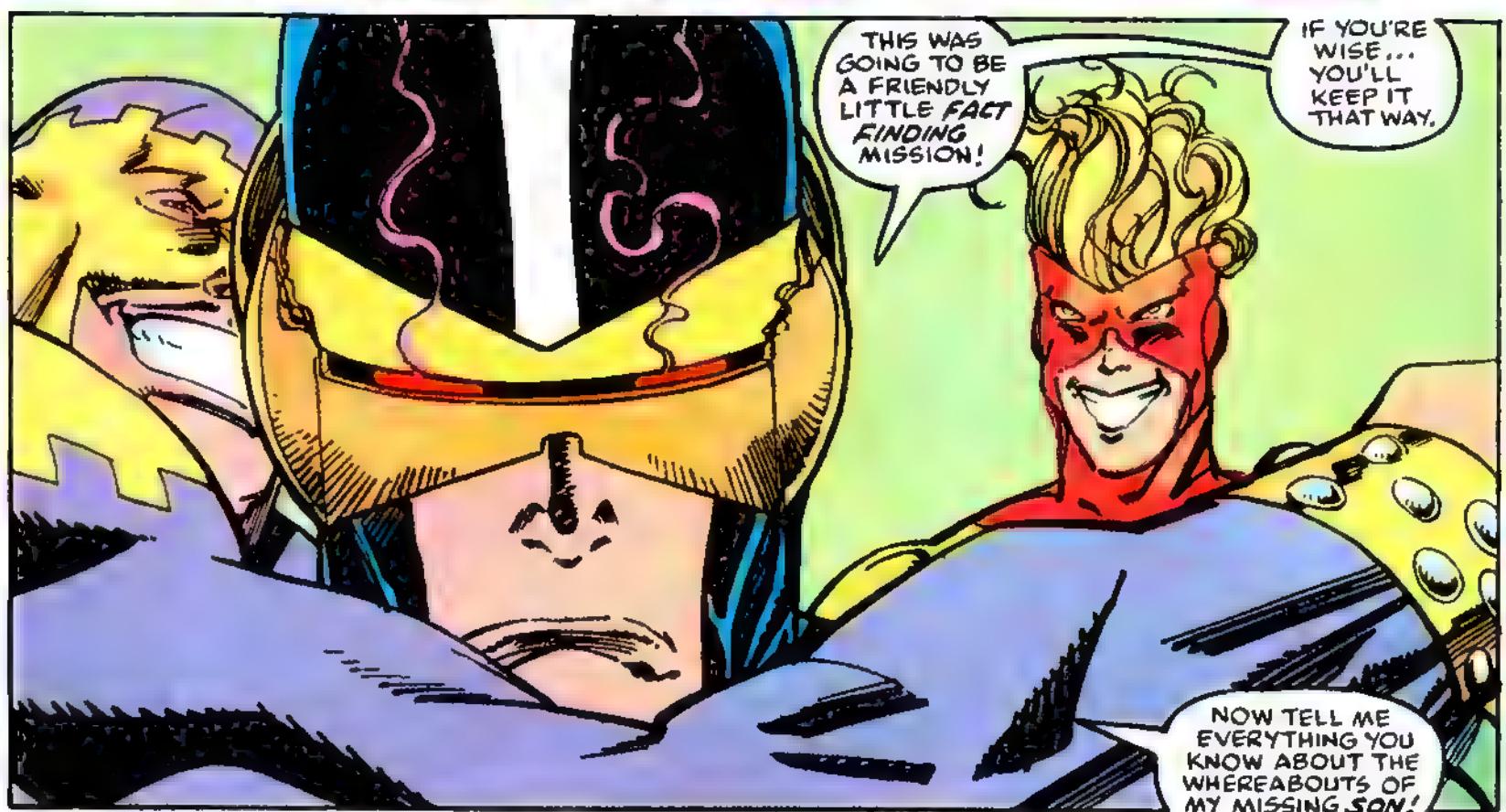
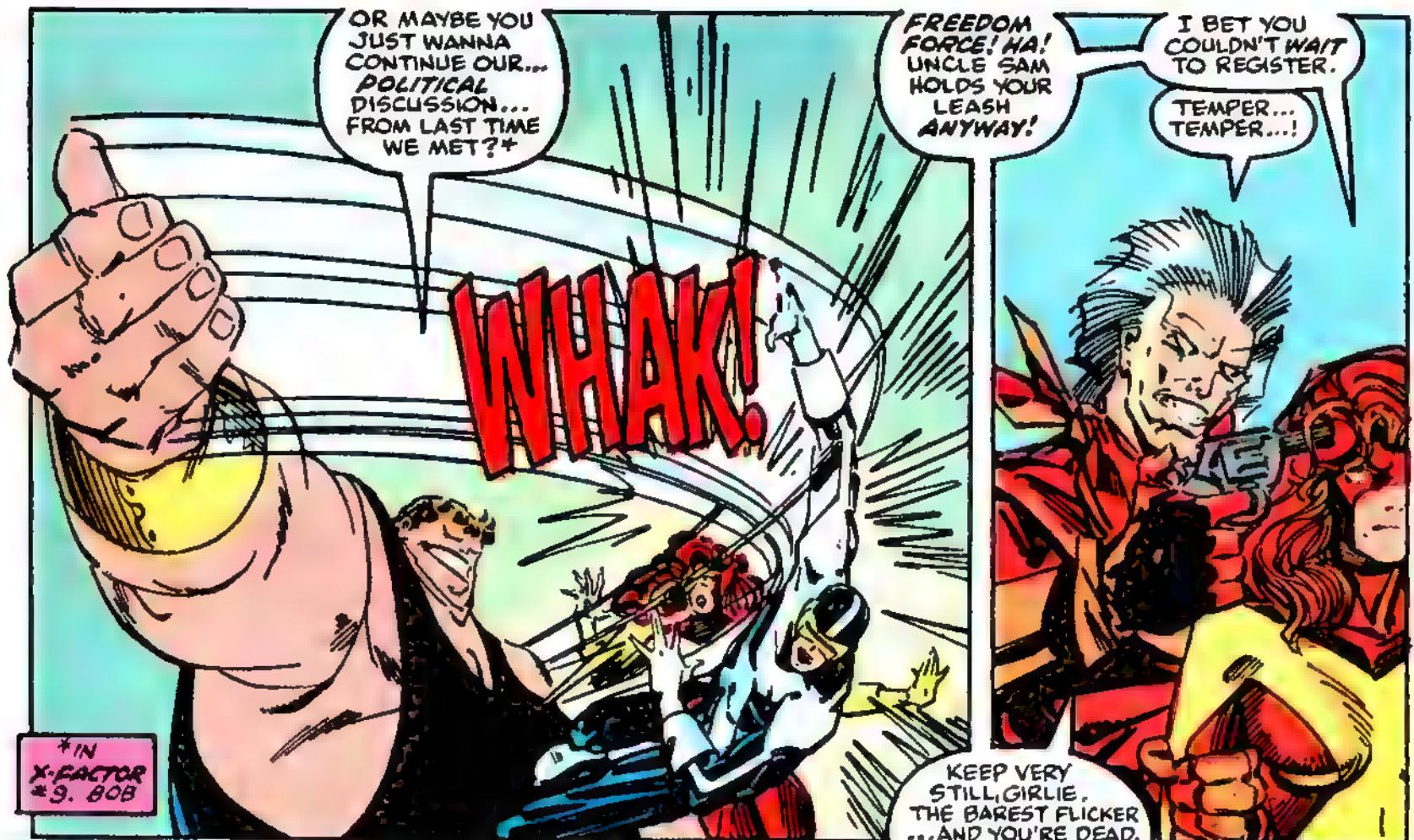


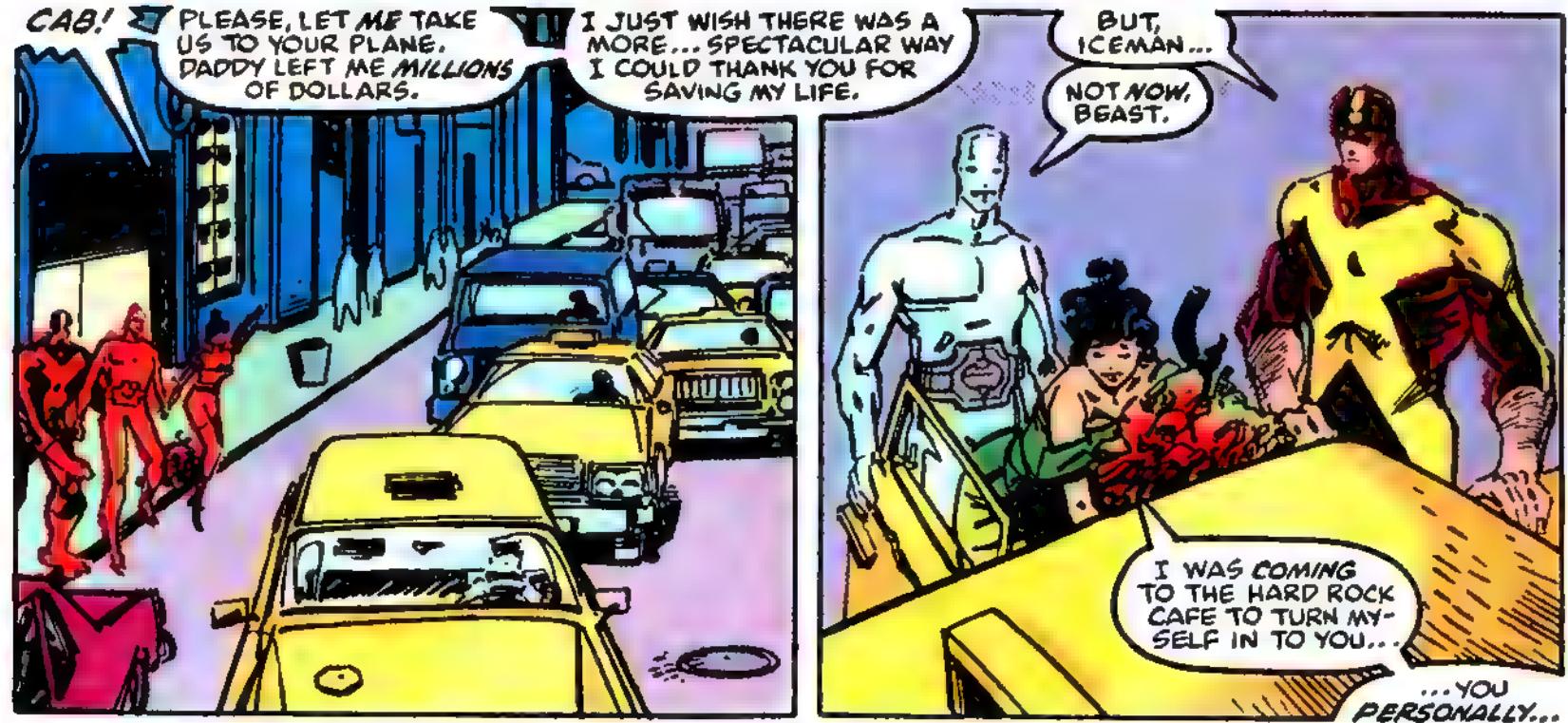
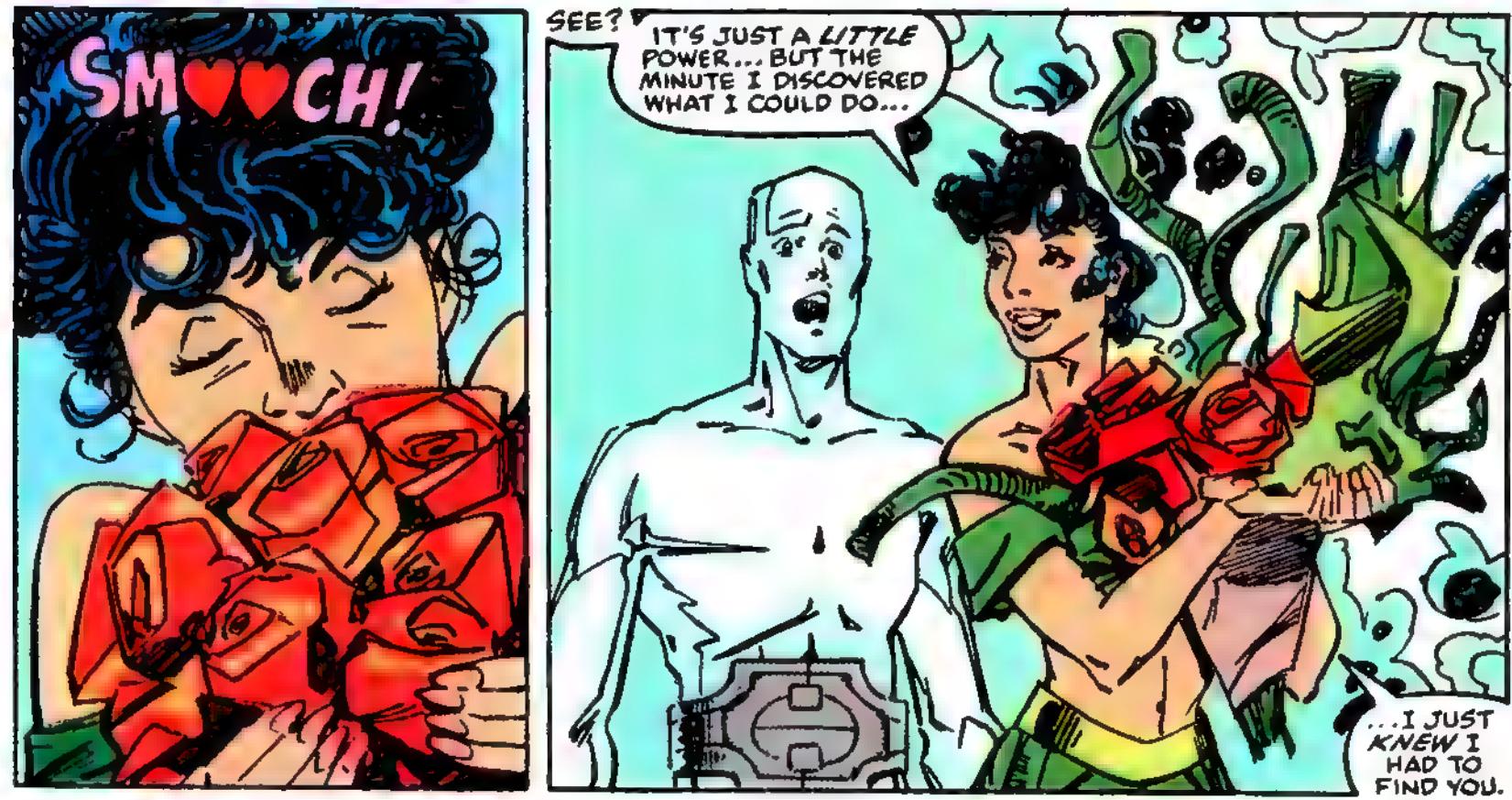
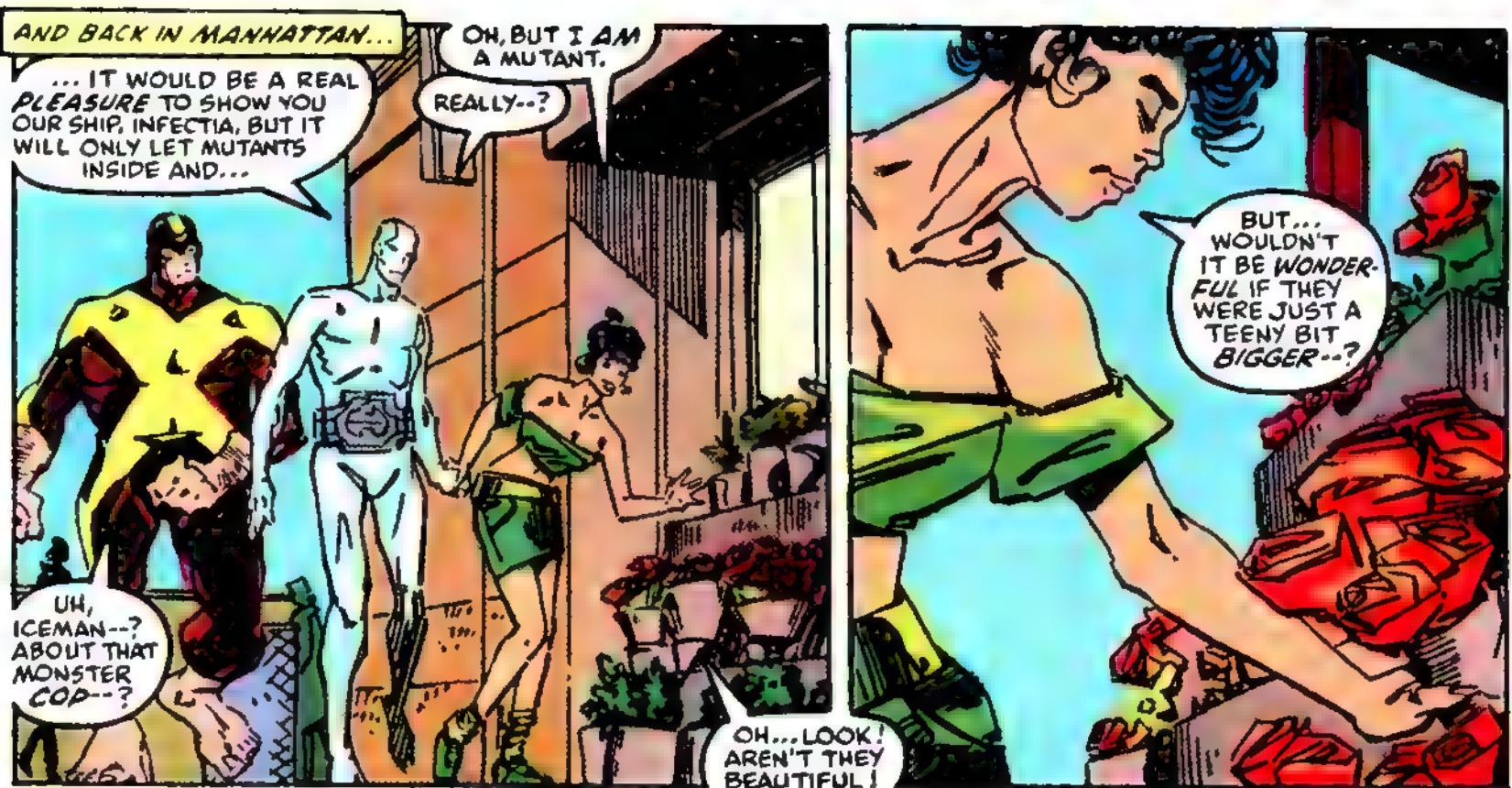












Bulper Bulletin

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I MUST EITHER SUPPORT A DOOMED REVOLT WHICH WILL RESULT IN THE SLAUGHTER OF MILLIONS OF MY BROTHERS — OR DO NOTHING AND BE BRANDED A TRAITOR TO MY RACE AND TO FREEDOM EVERYWHERE!"

— T'CHALLA, THE BLACK PANTHER,
BLACK PANTHER #1

ITEM: A hearty welcome back goes to Hardhitting Harry Candelario of our frenetic photostat department, who just got back from the U.S. Marine Corps! Harry took seven months off to attend boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, and then communications school at 29 Palms, California. He now has a Com Center Man Billet, which means he's learned the basics about the technology and techniques of military communications. The sturdy Mr. C will now spend one weekend a month and two full weeks of every year serving the Marines — the rest of the time he'll be at mighty Marvel, shooting stats, and keeping the junior bulletpens in line! Way to hang tough, Harry!

ITEM: We have several new add-ons to the ever-changing ranks of the mighty Marvel editorial elite. First, there's A.A. Perry, who's taking David Wohl's place in the Special Projects Department, assisting Craig Anderson. Andrew's got a B.A. in Literature and Film from Antioch College and put in a stint here as a college intern prior to his ascension into the rank and file. (Diligent) David has moved across the hall to assume the duties of the departing Joanne Spaldo as assistant editor to Howard Mackie on the New Universe line. Then there's Kelly Corvese, who's signed on as an Editorial Assistant, aiding Senior Editorial Secretary Sue Flaxman and inputting almost all of our listing letters pages into the master computer system. Kelly's a graduate of the Swedish Institute and is a part-time masseur. He hopes to

someday use those same hands to pencil comics. And last but not least, there's Barbara Avnstein, who's come aboard as Editorial Secretary to Executive Ed Mark Gruenwald. Barbara's led a checkered

career in the print and electronic media, and moonlights as a freelance writer for various New York area newspapers and magazines. Welcome to the creative chaos that is Marvel, people!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The most exciting television event of the decade is coming to NBC sometime this May! At last! Due to popular demand THE INCREDIBLE HULK (starring Bill Bixby and Lou Fer-



rigno) will be returning to the airways in a special two hour movie (proudly produced by those fabulous folks at New World Entertainment)!

And pay attention to this! The movie will also feature THE MIGHTY THOR! That's right! Good ol' Goldilocks will be making his very first live-action appearance on network television. Rumor has it that this movie may even help launch a brand-new weekly THOR television series if enough people watch it and call their local television stations to rave about it! (Take the hint, will you?)

Needless to say, your ever-batty Bulper is real excited by the thought of seeing the Mighty Thor battle The Incredible Hulk on national TV. It's bound to be the greatest battle the television world has seen since Leonard took on Hagler, Holmes challenged Tyson and Sledge Hammer lost to Cooley. Miss it not!

Pro File: PAT REDDING

Assistant Editor on: My title is "managing editor," which may be freely interpreted. I work on THE 'NAM, SEMPER FI, STEELTOWN ROCKERS, CONAN SAGA, CONAN THE BARBARIAN, CONAN THE KING, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, and the 'NAM MAGAZINE, A SAILOR'S STORY, SHADOW graphic novel, etc.

Marvel freelance credits (past): As an inker, some Thundercats covers (over Bob Camp), some John Buscema Conan stuff, over June Brigman on Young Astronauts, which never saw print, a Steve Ditko What If? (stay tuned!) and lots more!

Marvel freelance credits (present): Nothing at present, for Marvel, but I'm open for suggestions (hint, hint).

My hobbies are: Playing guitar in my band, the Thugs, but that's more than just a hobby. The rest of them won't be discussed here.

The single work of which I am most proud is: The Thugs backdrop: a prototypical Thug surfing on an iron board on spectacularly rendered waves. It's on black imitation velvet and is satisfactorily garish.

My pet peeves are: People who don't pay attention to things that matter.

My place of birth is: Washington, D.C., our nation's capital.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comic field is: To be decided individuality by others.

My oddest habit is: None of your business.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Since Lee Marvin died, it would definitely have to be Tura Satana. Mark Charello says "Jack Palance."

The reason I got into comics was: Larry Hama asked me, and I said "Why not?"

People who knew me in High School thought I was: Never going to be a good golfer.

My favorite performers are: All Elvis impersonators, Tesco Vee, Handsome Dick Manitoba, Bam Bam Bigelow, to name a few.

The last good book I read was: "The Killer Inside Me," by Jim Thompson.

The last good movie I saw was: "Ironweed."

The biggest influences on my work include: As an editor, Larry Hama. As an inker, Wally Wood, Noel Sickles, Mitt Caniff, Frank Frazetta, Alex Toth, Michael Golden, Bob Camp.

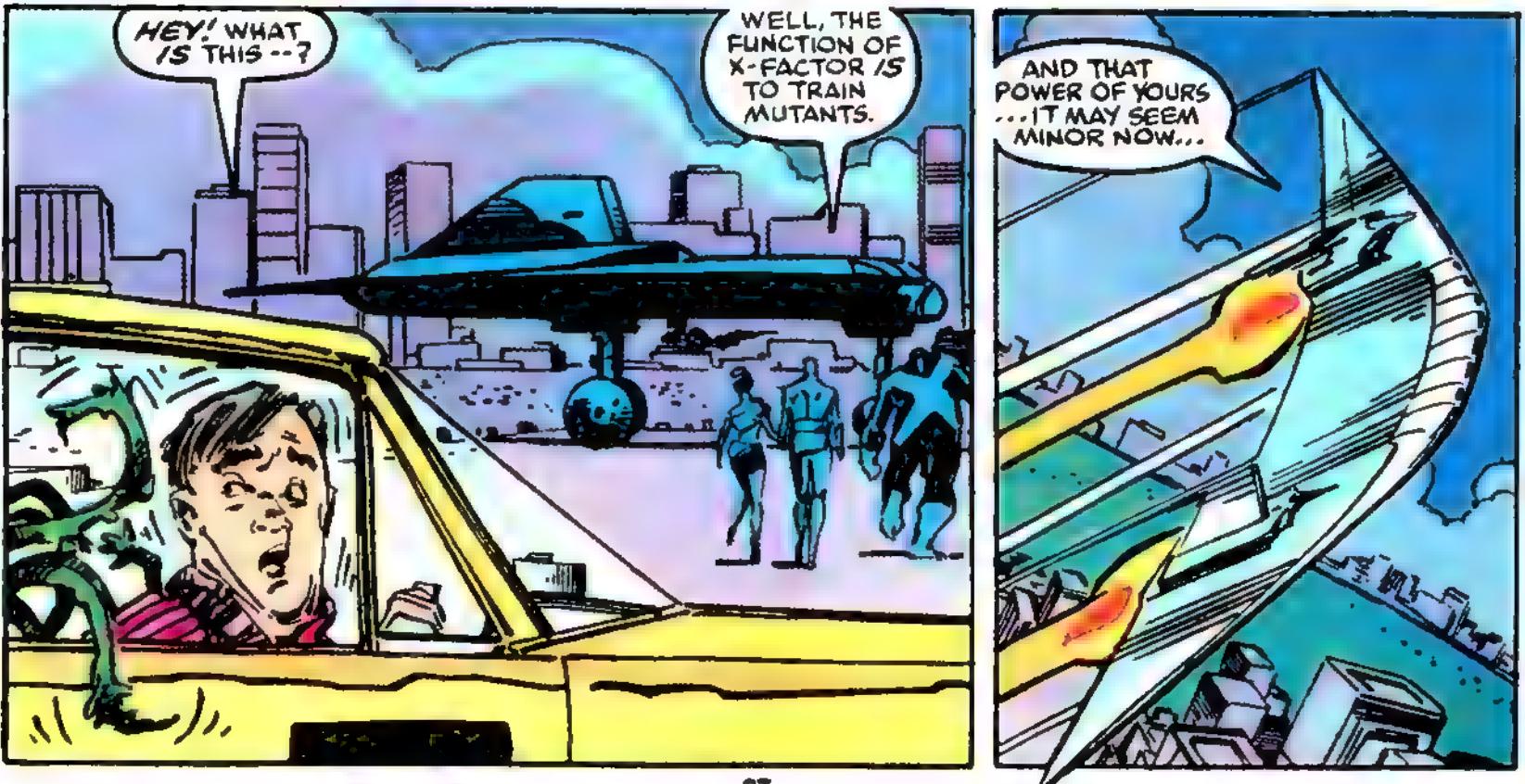
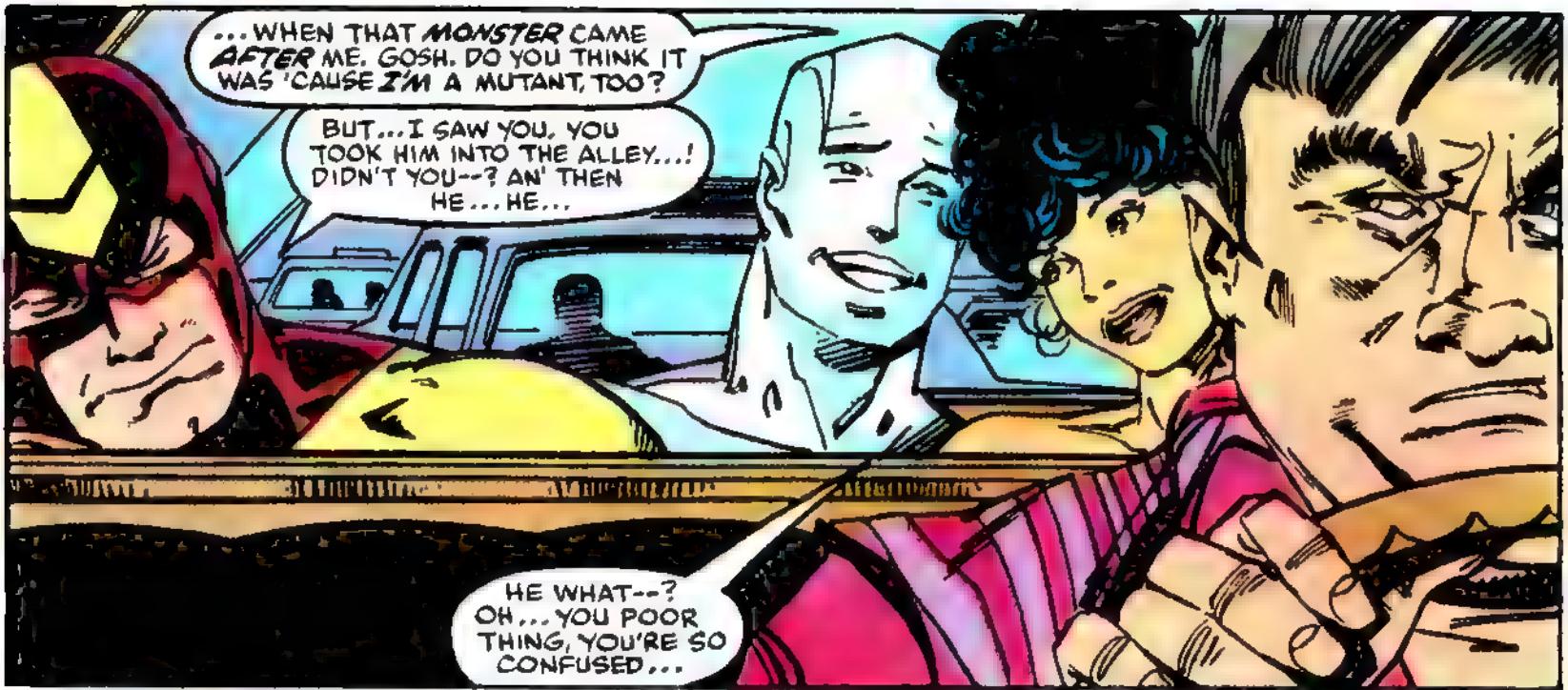
My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comic field is: Not to be taken for granted.

The worst part of my job is: That I'm not officially a full-fledged editor.

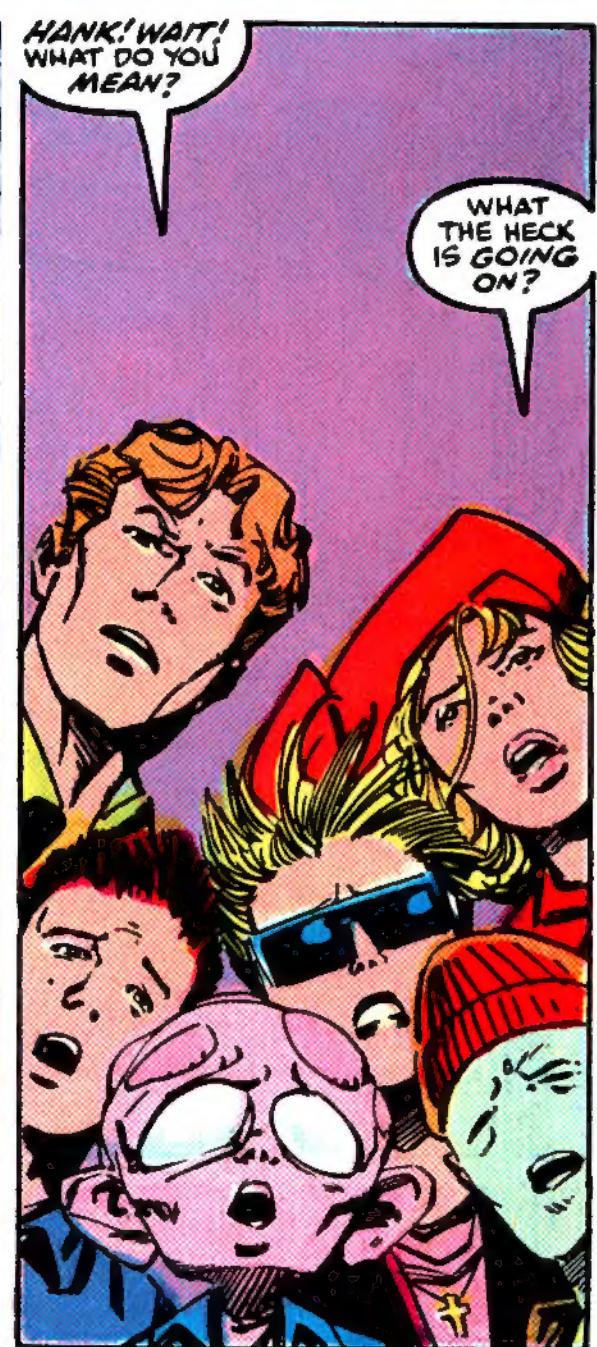
When nobody's looking I like to: Look at them.

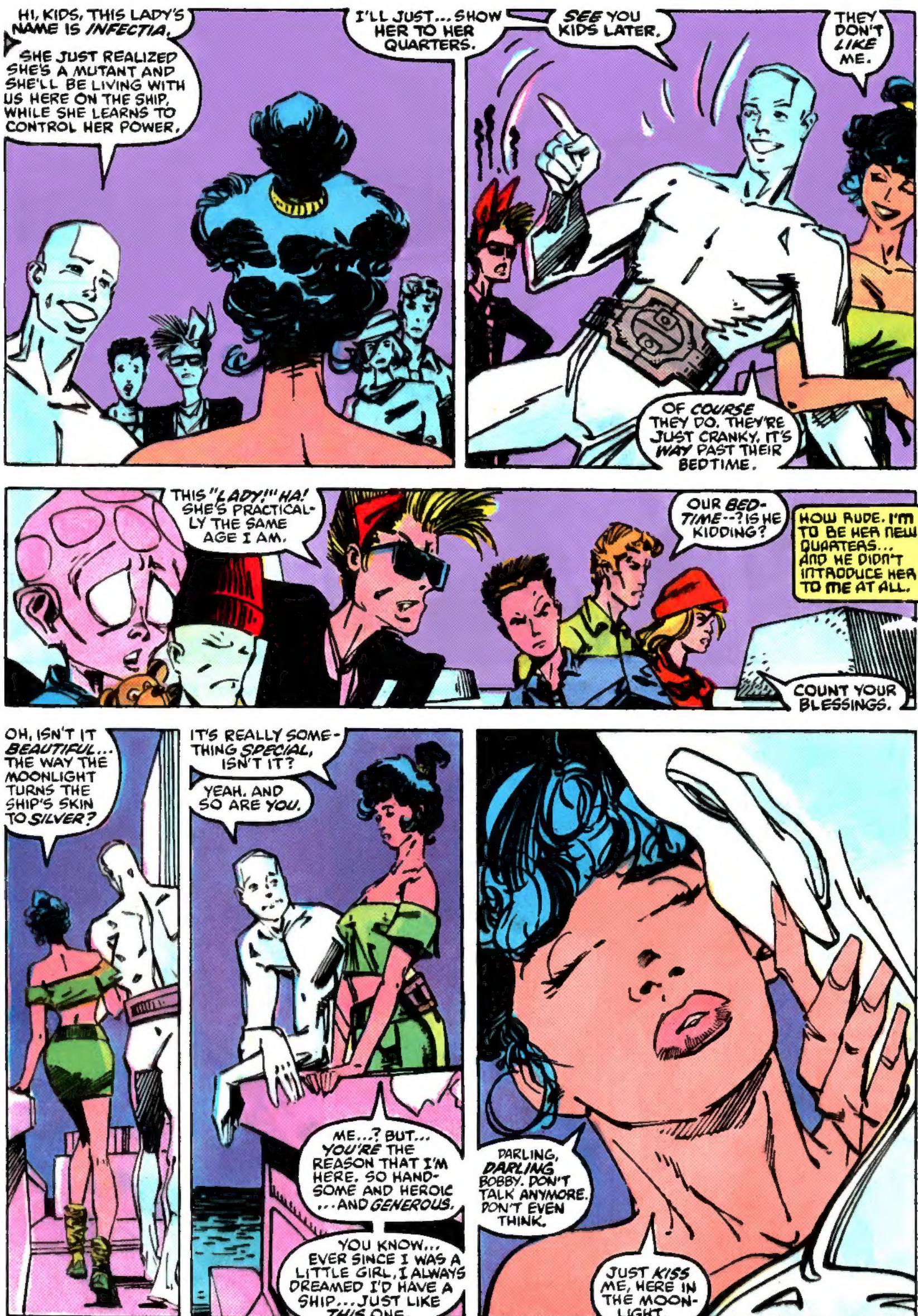
The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I just talk that way — if I wasn't a champ speller and a competent grammarian with a pragmatic vocabulary, then I wouldn't be editing!





...BUT WHO KNOWS
WHAT YOU MIGHT
EVENTUALLY
ACCOMPLISH.





NEXT ISSUE:

SEE INFECTIA MUTATE A MUTANT!
LEARN THE LOCATION OF SCOTT'S BABY!
MEET THE TERRIFYING ORPHAN MAKER!
THRILL TO THE RETURN OF CAMERON HODGE!

DON'T MISS--
KISS OFF!
SEE YOU IN 30!

X-CHANGES

BOB HARRAS: editor — DARYL EDELMAN: assistant editor
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Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Folks,

I think Walt Simonson is one of the very best! I loved the playfulness and power he brought to THOR. So I was very happy to see the crisp, innovative layouts in X-FACTOR #24. This was a welcome return to greatness, since for all-too-long the art on the book has seemed serviceable but uninspired.

This is hardly a "sick" book, but for a year or so the storyline seemed — to me — to be floundering. I could accept an emotionally distraught Cyclops, but one who acts like a half-wit? No. And the development of Cameron Hodge as a villain was disjointed and overlong. Speaking of Hodge — sorry, I'm rolling now — that ruby-quartz armor was dumb. Sure, the Marvel Universe includes magic as well as ultra high-tech devices, but that doesn't translate to "anything goes." You want me to believe that all the circuitry in the suit was transparent? Okay, maybe if Loki had whipped it up. There's no reason that he couldn't play a larger part in the future storyline . . . Hmm, I say that out of nostalgia for everything about Simonson's Asgard.

While the art on #24 was dynamite, the dialogue was a bit awkward in places. The simple syntax seemed to spell everything out so that kids wouldn't get confused. "Some kind of instantaneous transportation. Teleportation, maybe." Yeah, that could be it — or maybe you just fell through a trap door. And the cluttered expository dialogue on the fourth page of that issue — whew! Better you should go back to the old Marvel wisecracks of the '60's.

I hope that my comments don't seem entirely negative — I'm looking forward to the next issue, and to the changes following "The Fall Of The Mutants." And what about Warren?! (I like the blue face and make-up.)

Best wishes to Louise, Walt, and the whole creative team . . . X-Celsior!

Warren Purkel
Milwaukee, WI

Well, Warren, be sure and let us know what you think of the major changes wrought by the Fall. We certainly hope that were more to your liking than the events leading up to it.

Dear Mutant Men and Women,

I just finished reading X-FACTOR #24, and let me say that I hated it! The art, as always, was fantastic! The colors perfect, and the fight scenes fabulous! So why did I hate it?! Because of what you did to one of my favorite characters.

No, not Hank, not Scott, Jean, Bobby, or Caliban. That's right — Warren! I loved the Angel! His power may not have been much, but it was better, in my opinion, than Hank's. Sure, Hank could do backflips across Manhattan, but Warren's power was so much more graceful and awe-inspiring!

It's a shame that his wings were amputated, and I only hope that Hodge, that slime, gets what he deserves — a slow and painful death, with the emphasis on painful. Maybe mass amputation would be a fitting demise for Mr. Cameron Hodge. You could start with the legs, then the arms, etc. To think that a

person that Warren could put so much faith into would turn around and be the root cause of his transformation by having his wings amputated.

But the most horrendous thing that could happen to one of my favorite mutants is the total change of attitude and personality. Let's remind the man that his girlfriend of the past few years is "just a human". And that all those people he has fought to protect for so many years are also humans. Then we'll see if the man is willing to destroy the entire human race.

The old Warren was, in every sense of the word, a hero, and someone to look up to. Not because he was rich, handsome, or had super-powers, but because no matter how useless those powers seemed, you never saw him back down from a fight! And once he was in it, he was in it till the end!

Let's get Warren back on track and realize how great a hero he is, with or without wings. Let him see that it doesn't take "power" to be a true hero, but the courage and willingness to try and make things better, no matter what the odds! He should return to where he belongs . . . with X-FACTOR, and his real friends!

Tim Sullivan
28 Paula Drive
Bergenfield, NJ 07621

Dear Marvel,

First of all, many happy returns to the Bullpen's birthday lady, Mrs. Louise Jones Simonson. Long may she continue to chronicle the adventures of both the original X-Men and Byrel Whitemane's Terran grandchildren.

That said, I must confess to being a little disappointed with "Masks" in X-FACTOR #24. Compared to what X-FACTOR was only a year ago, it left a lot to be desired. The Walt Simonson/Bob Wiacek team continues to improve — their placing of Apocalypse throughout the story was magnificent — yet the theme of the story, those pesky eponymous masks, didn't gel. I believe in Warren as Death, but I have no sympathy for him. To my mind, this is not a "deliberate mockery of all he was," but rather, Warren's flip side. Angel's deciding, like Cocteau's Oedipus, that if he couldn't be the happiest man in the world, he would be the unhappiest. Hope exists, for Warren recognizes Jean — and almost responds to her — and Apocalypse had to brainwash Warren as we saw in #19, and contrary to what Shakespeare wrote, what's done can be undone. But he still has an attitude problem.

Also disturbing was the treatment of Caliban. Bad enough to keep ignoring the strength he can summon, but to have him offer to become a "Hell-Hound" conjures up echoes of the second Phoenix and her dismal alternate reality. I'm sure he only wants to avenge the slain Morlocks, but Apocalypse isn't someone who'll let a servant go readily. Caliban is an innocent, but he's not so stupid that he can't know that he's asking for trouble now.

All the same, this is a provocative subplot, as is the increase of the Beast's strength at the expense of his intelligence. (I approve of

the retooling of the team — but Hank's brilliance, even if buried under corny jokes as it often was in the blue and furry form, is an integral part of his personality. Part of his appeal lay in the fact that he was the smartest and most athletic of the mutants. "The stronger the Beast gets, the dumber the Beast gets" gets a thumbs-down from me. Keep him smart and strong.

Charles J. Sperling
37-15 Parsons Boulevard #4-C
Flushing, NY 11354

Dear X-Folks,

I've been following X-FACTOR since its first issue and, along with THE NEW MUTANTS and THE X-MEN, it's one of my favorite comics! I've never missed an issue. X-FACTOR #25 was great! But, I do have something to protest about — it's the way you are treating Caliban. I really like him — don't let Apocalypse take control over him. You brought Angel back to us but don't take Caliban away now. He has proven himself to both X-Factor and to the X-Men. Please do something about Angel's appearance, and soon. Now that Hodge's true colors have been brought forth, let Cyclops, Beast, Iceman, and Angel wear their original uniforms. The ones they have now are ugly. As for Jean, please give her a new code-name and a new uniform — but not her original, it was ugly, also. As for Caliban, I like his uniform and his mask. Please, let both X-Factor and the X-Men join forces against the mutant hunters. It's incredible that Storm, Havok, Wolverine, and Colossus — all old members of the X-Men who adored Jean Grey — don't even know she's alive. Well, I hope Hank, Warren, and Bobby recover from their problems soon. And, like I said before, Caliban is a great character — don't let that stupid Apocalypse take control over him.

I've always loved Marvel — please, don't ever let me down!

Alfred Hernandez
2365 S.W. 15th St.
Miami, FL 33145

Howdy, Bob-Squadmeisters,

Issue #25 of X-FACTOR was one of the very best ones ever made — but I still don't believe it was two years in the making. *The Fall of the Mutants* X-FACTOR storyline is my favorite. This time around, Apocalypse really lived up to his name. He had a lot of people thinking it was the end of the world, which was proved quite violently in DAREDEVIL #252. The POWER PACK crossover was great, too!

The final confrontation with Death was really good. It seems that while Hank becomes dumber, Bobby becomes smarter. And, just what are you going to do about Hank? Better make him smart again — a genius on the team makes it all the more interesting and fun.

Also, in this issue, Apocalypse had a very good point. He said, "You discount Caliban . . . as you've always discounted him!" He is right. I bet that 90% of the readers totally forgot about him. I did.

Hampus Pettersson
10380 Bret Ave.
Cupertino, CA 95014

Quick

STOP

RST



REVIEWER